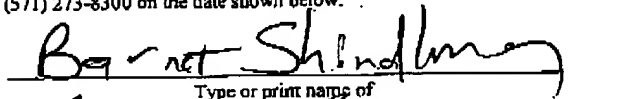
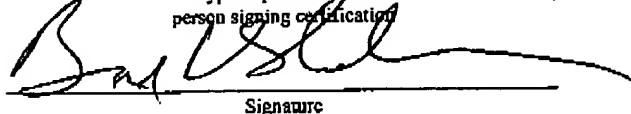


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CENTRAL FAX CENTER****MAR 23 2006**PATENT
450100-03202**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Masakazu Hayashi, et al. Notice of Allowance
Dated: 02/24/2006
Serial No. : 09/844,107 Confirmation No. 9971
Filed : April 27, 2001
For : APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROCESSING INFORMATION,
AND PROGRAM AND MEDIUM USED THEREFOR
Examiner : Chuong, Truc T.
Art Unit : 2179

745 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10151**FACSIMILE**

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March 23, 2006

Date of Signature

**RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR
ALLOWANCE**

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance,
which accompanied the Notice of Allowance mailed February 24, 2006. To the extent

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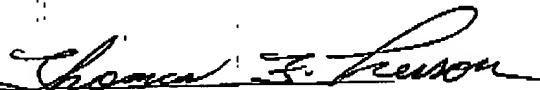
PATENT
450100-03202

the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance states, implies or is construed to mean that the claims are allowable over the prior art of record because the Examiner believes the claims should be interpreted to include one or more features or limitations not recited therein, Applicants' attorney disagrees with such an interpretation. Moreover, it is Applicants' contention that there is no particular limitation in the allowed claims that is more critical than any other. The issuance of the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance should not be construed as a surrender by Applicants of any subject matter. It is the intent of Applicants, by their attorney, to construe the allowed claims so as to cover the invention disclosed in the instant application and all equivalents to which the claimed invention is entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By



Thomas F. Presson

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